

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Interested Parties

FROM: Staff of the Illinois Commerce Commission

DATE: August 3, 2001

RE: Notice of Workshops: The Appropriate Timing, Scope, Organization and Conduct of Commission Evaluation of a "Section 271" Application

In a July 2, 2001 letter to the Illinois Commerce Commission ("Commission"), Ms. Carrie Hightman, President of Ameritech Illinois ("Ameritech") informed the Commission of Ameritech's intent to file a Section 271 application for authority to provide in-region interLATA services with the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") in 2002. This letter also sets forth Ameritech's intent to request a "two-phase" Commission evaluation of Ameritech's compliance with requirements of the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("Act") necessary to obtain Section 271 approval from the FCC.¹ Under this "two-phase" approach, Ameritech initially would present its 271 "case" fully recognizing the case is incomplete (in particular with regard to testing and evaluation of Ameritech's Operational Support Systems ("OSS") and provision of acceptable performance data). Upon successful completion of OSS testing and provision of acceptable performance data, Ameritech would then present its entire completed Section 271 application for final Commission determinations.²

The appropriate timing, scope, organization and conduct of a Commission evaluation of Ameritech's compliance with Section 271 requirements are significant issues for the telecommunications industry in Illinois, and for citizens of this state generally. The Commission would benefit from hearing the opinions and proposals of all interested parties concerning these issues in a manner that would allow for open discussions among the participants. Accordingly, Staff³ will host, prior to the docketing of Ameritech's 271 application, workshops open to all interested parties to explore and address fully these issues. The first such meeting will take place on August 15, 2001 10:00 am - 5:00 pm CDT. The workshop will be held in the Commission's offices at 160 North LaSalle Street,

¹ This July 2, 2001 letter has been posted to the Commission's website, along with other materials clarifying Ameritech's proposals concerning Commission evaluation of a Section 271 application. This does not imply endorsement or approval of any aspects of these documents. Rather, these postings are intended simply to make these documents readily available to all interested parties.

² Such a "two phase" Commission evaluation of Ameritech's compliance with Section 271 requirements likely would allow the earliest feasible completion of all aspects of any such Commission evaluation. Commission proceedings addressing Ameritech's OSS and proposed system of performance measurements currently are underway, with expected completion dates of approximately March 2002. There currently is no Commission investigation underway concerning the 14-point competitive checklist.

³ Notice is also given that Commissioners and Commission Assistants may be present at the meeting.

Chicago, Illinois (Room N-808). Any interested party unable to attend at this location may dial into an audio bridge on 1-877-865-6981 (passcode 7614125).

Upon completion of this and any subsequent workshops, Staff may solicit written comments from interested parties regarding the timing, scope, organization and conduct of any Commission evaluation of a Section 271 application. Staff will present to the Commission summaries of all positions and proposals offered by all parties, along with any Staff recommendations concerning these issues.